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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 00840 111629Z

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3813
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS DAKAR 0840

FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: FOOD AID POLICY FOR SAHEL

REF: 17244

1. RDO HAS REVIEWED PAPER DISTRIBUTED AT NIAMEY WORKSHOP ON SUBJECT POLICY ISSUE. AGREE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PAPER AND BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIME TO BE SELECTIVE IN FOOD DONATIONS AND CONCESSIONAL SALES.

2. DUE TO THE DAMAGES CAUSED BY SEVERE DROUGHT, THE SENE-GALESE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE RANGE OF MEASURES NEEDED TO PROMOTE INCREASED CEREALS PRODUCTION AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES TO ASSURE PROPER COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE INCREASED PRODUCTION AND TO STORE BUFFER STOCKS.

3. WITH THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENT PRODUCTION PROGRAMS, SENEGAL WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN MILLET AND SORGHUM IN YEARS OF NORMAL RAINFALL AND FREEDOM FROM MIGRATORY AND RODENT CAMAGES. THIS WILL REQUIRE AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 650,000 MTS MILLET/SORGHUM. RICE CONSUMPTION VARIES WITH THE PEANUT HARVEST, A GOOD CROP MEANING AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR RICE BY THE POPULATION. CONSUMPTION AVERAGES ABOUT 300,000 MTS WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION VARYING BETWEEN 75,000 TO 150,000 MTS. AS
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A RESULT, LARGE IMPORTS OF RICE WILL STILL BE REQUIRED UNTIL

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NEW PROGRAMS INCREASING PRODUCTION BECOME OPERATIVE. OTHER DONORS SUCH AS WORLD BANK, FAC AND EEC ETC. CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN INCREASING RICE PRODUCTION IN NORTH AND SOUTH OF SENEGAL.

4. THE GOVERNMENT IN APRIL 1975 PASSED A FOOD LAW PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF THEIR BASIC CRIPS MILLET AND SORGHUM SO THAT BUFFER STOCKS MAY BE SET UP. ALONG WITH THIS WAS INCLUDED THE NECESSITY FOR PRESENT STORAGE CAPACITIES TO BE INCREASED TO STORE THE FUTURE BUFFER.

5. DURING THIS POST DROUGHT PERIOD ONCAD WHICH FORMERLYONLY COMMERCIALIZED SMALLL QUANTITIES OF GRAINS, HAS BEEN OBLIGED BY THE FOOD LAW-PROGRAM TO PURCHASE ANY AMOUNT OF SORGHUM/ MILLET WHICH THE FARMER HAS FOR SALE. CURRENTLY THEY HAVE 45,000 MTS FROM LAST YEAR AND ARE PRESENTLY CONTINUING TO BUY AND HOPE TO BUILD UP A BUFFER STOCK OF 100,000 MTS OF CEREAL PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON THIS JUNE.

6. ADO BELIEVES MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID BY AID/W AND OTHER CDOS ON OBTAINING AND REVIEWING PAST COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF LDCS. AT PRESENT, DUE TO THE SAHEL DISASTER, THERE APPEARS TO BE A TENDENCY FOR THE SAHEL COUNTRIES TO CRY FOR SHORT-FALL FULFILLMENTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS MAJOR DONORS, WITHOUT REVIEWING OR DISCUSSING THE REGULAR ANNUAL COMMERCIAL IMPORTS THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALWAYS MADE PRIOR TO THE SAHEL DROUGHT. SUBJECT ISSUE PAPER MENTIONS THESE AT TIMES AMOUNTED 20 PER-CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE COUNTRIES TOTAL IMPORTS. THESE DETAILS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED AND QUESTIONS ASKED AS TO WHY THE COUNTRY IS NOT BRINGING IN ITS USUAL COMMERCIAL PURCHASE. AFTER THESE USUAL PURCHASES ARE MADE, CONSIDERATION FOR SHORTFALL REQUEST FROM A DONOR OR MULTI-DONOR SHOULD BE MADE.
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